

**MHS Home & School Association
Minutes
February 6, 2020**

In Attendance:

Cindy Hartson
Gabby Winters
Sophia Pham
Janine Keller

Dr. Bontempo
Michelle Greenawalt
Marie Kramer

Mercy Varghese
Cheryl Rothe
Bob Kramer
Sarah Spletzer

Welcome – Introductions

MHS Staff Reports

Principal – Dr. Bontempo reported:

- We are working hard on the scheduling process to make sure all courses are available to students.
- If students are not pleased with their core courses, they can refer to the waiver policy to explore as an option.
- Discussed this a.m. with counseling cascading certain courses or electives with a science lab. No students are required to cascade, students may take study halls instead.

Teachers – Cara Woudenberg – Ms. Woudenberg provided the following report:

- **From the Class of 2021:** Methacton's Roaring 20's Prom will be held on Friday, April 24 at the Sheraton in King of Prussia. Tickets will be sold at all lunches and before and after school during the week of March 9.
- **From the Medicine and Science Club:** Kid's STEM day will be held on Saturday, March 14 in the high school girl's gym from 1-3 p.m. More information to come.
- **From Element Creative Arts Magazine:** Element was recognized as Excellent in the National Council of Teachers of English Literary Magazine Contest, REALM (Recognition Excellence in Art and Literary Magazines). Element advisors and students want to extend a special thanks to Home & School who provided a mini-grant last year. We are proud of the talented students and faculty at Methacton High School who make this publication so successful.
- **From Student Council:** The Semi-formal Dance is Thursday, February 13 from 7-10 p.m. Only 9th and 10th grade Methacton students may attend. The cost is \$15.
- **From the MHS Theatre and Dance Company:** The spring musical, Brigadoon, will be performed at the high school on Thursday, February 27, Friday, February 28 and Saturday, February 29. All show times are 7 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online at www.smallvenueticketing.com/26858. The MHS Theatre and Dance Company is a self-funded program and appreciates community support.
- **From the MHS Art Department:** The art department is seeking help with setting up its annual art show. The dates for set up are April 28 – May 1. Please contact Beth Hall at bhall@methacton.org for more information.
- **From the Yearbook:** 2020 Yearbooks are now on sale for \$90; the price will increase to \$95 on April 1. All purchases should be made on Jostens.com. A Spring supplement is included in the purchase.

Counseling – Cindy Hartson – Ms. Hartson reported:

- One-on-one meetings with students start Monday – March 6. These are 15-minute, quality meetings to benefit the students.
- Guidance is collecting artifacts for the State Future Ready Index.

- There are College Fairs coming up. The Pennsylvania Association of College Admissions Counselors have a fair March 23, for which students will need to register in advance. The fair uses the StriveFair, bar code system. The hosts will receive a report for each college visited/scanned. It is best to know in advance what colleges you want to see. You will be able to see in advance what colleges will be in each fair.
- On February 12th there is a presentation for underclassmen parents grades 9-11. There will be a PSAT overview, and guidance representatives will go into post-secondary planning chats, covering all the post-secondary options. This event has been moved to LGI. please register online, under Calendar on the District site, so we know how many sets of materials to have on hand. If you have any issues, contact District secretary.
- There will be a March SAT at MHS on 3/14, deadline to register is 2/14.
- There will be an ACT on 4/4, deadline to register is 2/28.
- Mid-year reports for seniors are due out next week. Students have been notified of steps to request these reports and they are automatically sent out on the common app. If a school is not on the common app, the report must be requested.

H&S Reports:

Secretary – Sarah Spletzer – nothing to report.

Treasurer – Bob Kramer – Bob reported:

- For the month of January, we hit the typical lull in No-Frill Fundraiser, receiving only one additional donation for \$48.
- We spent \$1,100 for the Teacher Appreciation Lunch, and \$400 for our sponsorship of the Self-Defense Class.
- When comparing this school year's No-Frills donations to the previous 5 years', our tweaks this year resulted in positively reversing the downward trend on donations, which had been in a steady decline.
- For the remainder of the year, we anticipate approx. \$2,200 more in revenue, from the Giant A+ Rewards program. We are planning for \$2,800 in expenses for the balance of the year, with the largest items being \$1,100 for another round of mini-grants, \$800 for Home & School awards, \$300 for Student Support, \$250 for pizza for graduates visiting the elementary and middle schools, and \$200 for commemorative pens for the Seniors.
- We had a follow-up discussion on the Methacton Student Loan program. The H&S recommendation is follow-through on the MCC's current plans for the program. We will follow-up with the MCC with our recommendation for the disbursement of the program funds.

Vice President – Gabby Winters/Michelle Petko – no report given

Presidents – Mercy Varghese/Marie Kramer – Mercy and Marie reported:

- They received an email about younger grades having a presentation about acts of kindness, related to the A+ program through Giant in the way that Giant will reward extra points for this activity.
- Ms. Hartson suggested that Ms. Fabrizio may be the best contact person since she ran Random Acts of Kindness club last year.
- Another idea we've had and want to present to Dr. Sorgini and guidance is a presentation that Laurel House wants to hold, and whether we can tack such a presentation on to an event parents or students are already coming out to. We will forward that information on to education chair.
- Just a reminder that we are happy to advertise school activity fundraising events or events in general on Konstella.

District Reports:

SEA – Michelle Jackson-Greenawalt – Ms. Jackson-Greenawalt reported:

- The meetings we used to hold in the HS library are now being held in the Arcola LGi.
- We have 43 people signed up for Feb. 20th program on Building Executive Function Skills.
- On February 11 there is a program at MCIU, given by Dr. Angstaadt about inclusion and the changing mindset of special education - inclusive models. On February 19 there is a Kindergarten readiness program and on March 19 there is another inclusion meeting about why inclusion is important, on April 16 there is a stress and life management program given by Pillars of Light and Love.
- We thank you for your support, we continue to get good, positive feedback

Post Prom – Gabby Winters/Lisa Coupe – Gabby reported:

- The next meeting is Tuesday night 7:00 at MHS.
- Planning is ramping up.
- We will be sending out a volunteer email soon with information about chair positions, shadowing, etc.
- Gabby asked a question about the timing of the Art Show. The Art Show is held in the Library and all up and down hall outside library, but date-wise falls just after Post Prom and will not interfere.

School Board – (report)

- The Board met on January 7th for the work session but first held a special meeting immediately prior and voted to approving taking exceptions of 1.066% for special education and .0047% for PSERS to the Act 1 index for the proposed preliminary budget. The preliminary budget is continuing to be refined and reviewed and the board and administration are committed to ensure the final budget is responsive to the needs of our taxpayers as well as our students.
- Also at the January 7th special meeting, staff from Worcester Elementary School were recognized, the board meeting schedule was approved and Summer 2020 Master Plan projects were discussed and approved.
- During the January 7th work session KCBA Architects shared a presentation on the Arrowhead Elementary Concept Design, which is available to view on the district website under the "Arrowhead Forward" section, or you can listen to the entire presentation online, look for "Board Meeting Videos" on the website.
- The regular meeting on January 21st featured recognition of the school board with a student video and a presentation of certificates. We all really appreciated the kind words and it is our pleasure to serve on this board and serve the Methacton community. Staff from Methacton High School were also recognized with certificates and words of appreciation, and there was a presentation by the Methacton Coordinating Council which featured students describing how Methacton's Home & School volunteers contribute to their education and the positive impact the Home & School has on our community. Dr. Katona presented Methacton's 2019 performance results, and our final presentation was from Dr. Zerbe who recommended a revision to the Strategic Plan with an overarching new goal: "To ensure an exceptional Methacton School District Experience for all." This concept allows us to focus on the whole child as well as the larger Methacton community, More details and specifics will be forthcoming as the Plan is revised and refined.
- All other items presented on the agenda were approved by the board.

- Our next work session will be on Tuesday, February 18th and the regular meeting will be on Tuesday, February 25th. Both meetings will be in the LGI room at the High School at 7pm. We welcome your attendance and your feedback.
- THANK YOU for all that you do!

Questions & Answers – as time allows – Janine Keller will be our Nominations Committee. The President and Treasurer positions will be open positions this year. We will announce them by the April meeting and vote at the evening meeting in May.

Adjournment

Dates to Remember:

February:

13 – Semi-Formal, 9th & 10th Grades 7:00 p.m.

14 – No School (In-service)

17 – No School (Holiday)

27-29 – Spring Musical 7:00 p.m.

March

7 – “Mr. Methacton” competition 7:00 p.m.

12 – H&S Meeting – 7:00 p.m.

12 – Senior Banquet @ Normandy Farms 6:00 p.m.

***Next meeting 3/12/20 7:00 p.m.
in the MHS Library***